

**What is claimed is:**

1. A system for automated accounting of document generating device usage comprising:
  - means adapted for acquiring usage data representative of usage of a document generating device in accordance with a selected one of a plurality of user accounts;
  - means adapted for storing report data representative of a data reporting period;and
  - reporting means adapted for periodically outputting the usage data to an associated accounting administrator in accordance with the report data.
2. The system for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 1 wherein the usage data includes at least one of copier usage data representative of a number of copies made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts; print usage data representative of a number of prints made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts; facsimile usage data representative of a number of facsimile transmissions made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts; and scanning usage data representative of a number of scanning images made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts.
3. The system for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 1 wherein the reporting means includes means adapted for outputting the usage data to an associated accounting administrator via at least one of electronic mail transmission, facsimile transmission, FTP transmission, and HTML transmission.
4. The system for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 1 wherein the reporting means includes means adapted for outputting the usage data to at least one of an electronic mail server, a document management system, an image generating device, and an Internet server.

5. The system for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 1 wherein the document generating device includes a scanning device, a copying device, a printing device, a facsimile device, and a multifunctional peripheral.

6. The system for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 1 wherein the reporting means further includes means adapted for selecting parameters for periodically outputting the usage data.

7. The system for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 6 wherein the means adapted for selecting parameters for periodically outputting usage data include selecting at least one of data reporting period, user accounts to be reported, format of output, transmission type, destination of output, and usage data included.

8. A method for automated accounting of document generating device usage comprising the steps of:

acquiring usage data representative of usage of a document generating device in accordance with a selected one of a plurality of user accounts;

storing report data representative of a data reporting period; and

periodically outputting the usage data to an associated accounting administrator in accordance with the report data.

9. The method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 8 wherein the usage data includes at least one of copier usage data representative of a number of copies made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts; print usage data representative of a number of prints made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts; facsimile usage data representative of a number of facsimile transmissions made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts; and scanning usage data representative of a number of scanning images made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts.

10. The method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 8 wherein the reporting step includes outputting the usage data to an associated accounting

administrator via at least one of electronic mail transmission, facsimile transmission, FTP transmission, and HTML transmission.

11. The method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 8 wherein the reporting step includes outputting the usage data to at least one of an electronic mail server, a document management system, an image generating device, and an Internet server.

12. The method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 8 wherein the document generating device includes a scanning device, a copying device, a printing device, a facsimile device, and a multifunctional peripheral.

13. The method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 8 wherein the reporting step includes selecting parameters for periodically outputting the usage data.

14. The method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 13 wherein the means adapted for selecting parameters for periodically outputting usage data include selecting at least one of data reporting period, user accounts to be reported, format of output, transmission type, destination of output, and usage data included.

15. A computer-readable medium for automated accounting of document generating device usage comprising:

means adapted for acquiring usage data representative of usage of a document generating device in accordance with a selected one of a plurality of user accounts;

means adapted for storing report data representative of a data reporting period;

and

reporting means adapted for periodically outputting the usage data to an associated accounting administrator in accordance with the report data.

16. The computer-readable medium for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 15 wherein the usage data includes at least one of copier usage data representative of a number of copies made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts; print usage data representative of a number of prints made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts; facsimile usage data representative of a number of facsimile transmissions made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts; and scanning usage data representative of a number of scanning images made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts.

17. The computer-readable medium for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 15 wherein the reporting means includes means adapted for outputting the usage data to an associated accounting administrator via at least one of electronic mail transmission, facsimile transmission, FTP transmission, and HTML transmission.

18. The computer-readable medium for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 15 wherein the reporting means includes means adapted for outputting the usage data to at least one of an electronic mail server, a document management system, an image generating device, and an Internet server.

19. The computer-readable medium for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 15 wherein the document generating device includes a scanning device, a copying device, a printing device, a facsimile device, and a multifunctional peripheral.

20. The computer-readable medium for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 15 wherein the reporting means further includes means adapted for selecting parameters for periodically outputting the usage data.

21. The computer-readable medium for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 20 wherein the means adapted for selecting parameters for periodically outputting usage data include selecting at least one of data reporting period, user

accounts to be reported, format of output, transmission type, destination of output, and usage data included.

22. A computer-implemented method for automated accounting of document generating device usage comprising the steps of:

- acquiring usage data representative of usage of a document generating device in accordance with a selected one of a plurality of user accounts;
- storing report data representative of a data reporting period; and
- periodically outputting the usage data to an associated accounting administrator in accordance with the report data.

23. The computer-implemented method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 22 wherein the usage data includes at least one of copier usage data representative of a number of copies made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts; print usage data representative of a number of prints made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts; facsimile usage data representative of a number of facsimile transmissions made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts; and scanning usage data representative of a number of scanning images made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts.

24. The computer-implemented method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 22 wherein the reporting step includes outputting the usage data to an associated accounting administrator via at least one of electronic mail transmission, facsimile transmission, FTP transmission, and HTML transmission.

25. The computer-implemented method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 22 wherein the reporting step includes outputting the usage data to at least one of an electronic mail server, a document management system, an image generating device, and an Internet server.

26. The computer-implemented method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 22 wherein the document generating device includes a scanning device, a copying device, a printing device, a facsimile device, and a multifunctional peripheral.

27. The computer-implemented method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 22 wherein the reporting step includes selecting parameters for periodically outputting the usage data.

28. The computer-implemented method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 27 wherein the means adapted for selecting parameters for periodically outputting usage data include selecting at least one of data reporting period, user accounts to be reported, format of output, transmission type, destination of output, and usage data included.